

OCT 23 1956

Dr. H. Kihara
National Institute of Genetics
Mitsima, Japan

Dear Dr. Kihara:

Mr. Tetsuo Iino has told me of the circumstances which have led you to request his return to your Institute in the near future. While I can understand the embarrassment to your Institutional program that may result from having so many of its younger members away at one time, I would urge you to give special consideration to Mr. Iino's desire to complete his doctoral studies here before returning.

Let me say first that Iino has been a brilliant student and research worker. I anticipate that he will be an outstanding contributor in microbial genetics—and I am making this judgment on an international basis. As you know, your associate, and Iino's friend Motoo Kimura has already achieved a world-wide reputation in his own field; I am ready to predict that Iino will achieve the same status in microbiology. However, for that aim, it seems to me imperative that Iino complete his training and doctoral research without interruption. In many ways, Iino has been a somewhat younger person than Kimura in his attack on research problems; he has also had somewhat more difficulty with English, and that has slowed up his studies slightly. As he continues his investigations, Iino has shown a progressively increasing sense of confidence, imagination and aggressiveness and it is these, together with research techniques and factual information, that he must continue to develop. It would therefore be not only a grave personal disappointment to me, but a misfortune in his career, if his studies were prematurely interrupted.

In my opinion, an appropriate schedule for Iino's academic program would be for him to take his preliminary examinations for the Ph.D. within the next few months, and his final examinations either in January or in May 1958, so that he would receive his degree either in February or in June 1958. It might be possible to make other arrangements, but I believe to shorten his studies would be a mistake. We are prepared to give him financial support for as long as may be necessary.

May I add that the basis on which Iino was accepted as a student here was that he would have leave for as long as would be required for him to complete his doctoral work. I would have been very reluctant to have accepted him on any other basis (of course, post-doctoral fellowships for experienced investigators will often be for a one or a two-year term). On all grounds, I offer my personal plea that you endorse the continuation of the plan on which he came initially. I am sure that his subsequent performance as a research worker will more than justify your and my confidence in him.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics